

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

## Focus on Faith

### Abraham's Sacrifice and Ours

The story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac is a frightening one. How could God ask this of him? What the story actually is teaching is that God does not want our children in sacrifice. He stopped Abraham's sacrifice to show that the surrounding cultures' practice of sacrificing children was wrong. This Scripture story points to issues we as parents can consider. What expectations do we have of our children? Do we insist on academic or athletic excellence beyond their capacity or interest? Do we insist that our way of doing things is the only way our children should follow? Are we frightened by the prospect of their wanting to follow vocations that we do not approve of? What help do we need from God to not place excessive demands on our children?

### Dinnertime Conversation Starters

Have a listening session in which your child can share his or her hopes and dreams of the future. Create an atmosphere in which you listen without judging choices or warning about how much study will be required to accomplish those goals.

### Spirituality in Action

As Christians, we believe that God does not give up on us but is always working to help us on our journey through life, just as he helped Abraham. Ask each person in the family to think of one thing to do this week to demonstrate a hopeful attitude to others.

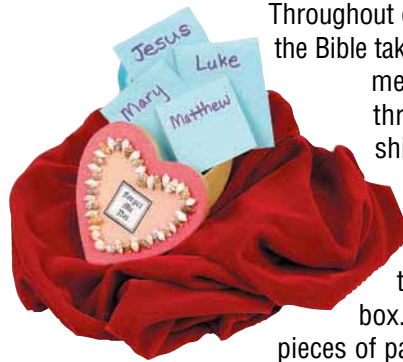


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For one person this might mean being patient with a person or project. Another person might say positive things when with friends who are often negative toward others. Dad or Mom might make plans for a celebration that the family can enjoy after a major task around the house is finished.



### Hints for at Home



Throughout our lives the stories of the Bible take on different personal meanings as we go through changes, hardships, and joys. To help you continue to think about Bible stories, work with the family to decorate a small box. On separate small pieces of paper, write the names of different biblical characters that your child has learned about and put the papers into the box. Once every month set aside time for the family to get together and draw a name out of the box. Share the story associated with that character. Talk about the challenges or events in that Bible character's life that brought him or her closer to God. Discuss how those kinds of challenges occur in your own lives.

### Focus on Prayer

Your child is reviewing the prayer Act of Hope. To help reinforce this prayer, pray it together as a family. You may find the words to this prayer at [www.FindingGod.org](http://www.FindingGod.org).

